



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy No.: DOC 4.2.2	Subject: SPECIAL NEEDS OFFENDERS
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Section 2: Classification	Revision Date:
Signature: /s/ by Director Day 9/10/97	Effective Date: Jan. 1, 1998

I. POLICY:

It is the policy of the Department of Corrections to identify, at the time of intake or as soon thereafter as possible, all offenders requiring special needs, and to attempt to provide appropriate programs and services to those offenders.

II. AUTHORITY:

53-1-203 MCA. Powers and Duties of the Department of Corrections

III. DEFINITIONS:

None.

IV. PROCEDURES:

Offenders with special needs may include, but are not limited to, individuals who are chemically dependent, have addictive disorders, are emotionally disturbed, mentally ill, developmentally disabled, advanced-age, physically handicapped, or juveniles adjudicated as adults. Ordinarily, they are identified at the time of intake or during classification.

A. Identification

At reception or orientation, staff may use the following data and techniques to determine the special needs of offenders:

1. Pre-sentence investigation reports;
2. Interviews;

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3. Batteries of tests such as IQ tests to screen for developmental disabilities and personality tests to screen for mental illness or emotional disturbances;
4. A review of the offender's personal history;
5. Medical and psychological screening and examinations; and
6. Direct observation by facility staff.

B. Programming

Every possible effort will be made to place offenders with special needs in an appropriate setting. If the offender remains in the facility, separate housing and programming may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Substance-abuse counseling and educational programs;
2. Social and vocational programs to maximize the potential of the developmentally disabled;
3. Psycho-therapeutic treatment to address problems arising from a mental disorder;
4. Special programs, therapy, or physical aids for advanced-age or handicapped offenders;
5. Supportive counseling for special needs offenders in all categories.

V. CLOSING:

Questions concerning this policy shall be directed to your immediate supervisor.